

BCM

A Belgian J-Culture Magazine

Nr 26: January - February - March 2016

Interviews

ADAMS

RarezHut

Shota Yokoyama

Fashion & features

Vintage fashion

handmade J-fashion

Helcanen in Japan

In loving memory of Shota Yokoyama

IN THIS EDITION

Fashion

Retro fashion feature p. 5-15

Handmade J-fashion feature p. 75-82

J-MUSIC CORNER

Reviews p. 47-50

Tribute to Shota Yokoyama p. 51-53

Interviews with

ADAMS p. 54-73

RareHutz p. 74

Lifestyle

Event reviews p. 18-31

Helcanen in Japan photo feature p. 33-45

And more...

Snap p. 86-87

Event calendar p. 84

Check that Cheki p. 85

NEW! Visit ... p. 16-17



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Models: Anne, Eva, Steven DLP, James, Ruby-Lou (@itsRubyLou on Instagram), Coralie Michel, Neb aaran do, Bert Van den Wyngaert

Photography (by and provided by): Hilde Heyvaert, Coralie Michel, Jammy for Neb aaran do,

Handmade J-fashion feature:

Models: Emma Kitten, Effi Hime, fruit salad, Lilith Lawless, Freyja Phoria for designers Sarah Bunny and Freyja Phoria of the brands Plastic and bows (clothing) Starfalls 2097 (dread wigs and synthetic hair pieces): Cyber fashions. Hilde Heyvaert (otome kei & steampunk mix), Lora-Elly Vannieuwenhuysen (steampunk lolita)
Photography: Hilde Heyvaert, Kristīne Pētersone (Laine Apine Photography www.laineapine.com), Bert Van den Wyngaert

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed by people interviewed are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the BCM staff. Thus we can and will not be held responsible, nor accountable for them.

INTRODUCTION

This first release of 2016 is one that has been put together with a heavy heart, and is dedicated in a large part to the tribute of a dear friend and talented musician: Shota Yokoyama of ADAMS, who very suddenly passed away on November 30th 2015. Shota was a dear friend of many in Europe, including several members of the BCM team, so this has been, without a shadow of a doubt, the hardest edition to date to put together.

Whilst musically, we are focussing heavily on Shota's memory, we are still bringing you features on vintage and handmade fashions, a travel photography focus on Hiroshima by the very talented Helcanen and tons of event reviews!

Happy new year everyone, and may 2016 be better than the past years!

If you want to chip in for the next edition, the deadline is March 24th!

Hilde Heyvaert
Editor in Chief

Net:
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by ネバアランド

FOR EVERYONE WHO HAS A JUDGEMENT AS A CHILD!



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VISIT ANTWERP!

We at BCM often receive questions of where in Belgium and Europe is good to visit.

We aren't travel agents, but we can make recommendations!

So in this new Visit! feature we will focus on a European city per edition.

First up: **ANTWERP** in Belgium - www.visitantwerp.com

Other reasons to visit Antwerp: the *Christmas season in December*, *Summer of Antwerp* in July and August and *Antwerp Convention*, the best pop culture con Belgium has to offer!

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert



Not all, but many roads in old town lead to the Cathedral on the Handschoenmarkt.



Legends of Antwerp with the Brabo fountain and City Hall on the Grote Markt.



Antwerp Central Station, a beautiful mix of history and modernism both inside (photo on the left) and outside (this photo). Koningin Astridplein 27.



Antwerp is home to many beautiful churches. A must visit is Carolus Borromeus on the Hendrik Conscience plein.



Horse-drawn sightseeing tours start at the Grote Markt and take you through old town.



Don't forget to give the buildings a close look, many have beautiful architectural details, and you can find these all around Antwerp.



MoMu, the Antwerp Fashion Museum.
Nationaalstraat 28.



No matter what time of day, or night, Antwerp is always full of atmosphere.



't Koetshuis, the most amazing antique and curiosa store in the entirety of Antwerp.
Kloosterstraat 62.



Bubble tea bar and Lomography provider 8tea5.
Korte Klarenstraat 15.



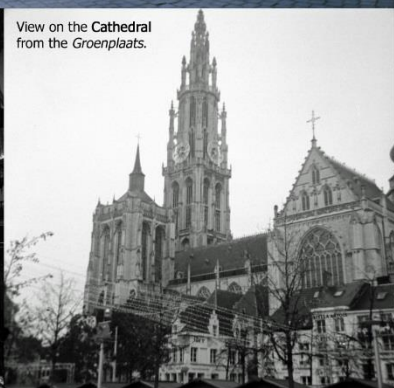
There's always something to do or see going on. Especially on weekends and shopping Sunday's (every first Sunday of the month).



Bookprinting Museum Plantin-Moretus.
Vrijdagmarkt 22-23.



Stadsfeestzaal, Meir 78



View on the Cathedral from the Groenplaats.



The Hilton Hotel, seen from the Groenplaats.





Event: Dapper Day, Soirée d'Automne
What: retro/vintage (inspired) fashion event
When: September 26 2015
Where: Disneyland Parc, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France
Ticket price: Dapper Day itself was free, but you needed a ticket to the Disneyland Park, and prices for that vary depending on the formula
Website: www.dapperday.com

Most people into fashion, Disney parks or dieselpunk know *Dapper Day*. The US initiative where on some days Disney parks in California and Florida are turned into a veritable congregation of people dressed in retro fashions of the diesel era and contemporary chic and rockabilly styles. In the US they are huge, they are the bees-knees, there are even Dapper Day Expo events, and now they started bringing them to Disneyland Paris also. Albeit in much more modest form.

Let me start out by saying that whatever negative point I have to say about Dapper Day has absolutely NOTHING to do with the people that were organizing it from Europe. They did the best they could, and under the circumstances they did a fine job and I applaud them for all the time and effort they put into making the event fun. I had a good time at every part of the program I participated in. That said, there was room for improvement. Of course, everyone assumed that it wouldn't be as grand as in the US. How could it be? Dapper Day does not have the same fame, nor pull as it does in the US, and whilst in the US I imagine quite a few doors open for the organization, the means to pull off the event here were much more limited.

It did of course, not help that the official organizer was several hours behind due to time difference in the US and insisted on ok'ing everything, rather than having some more trust in the European team, who, on the day itself proved to be more than capable of sorting things out. It was great that they were able to organize a sizeable group on the spot. Sadly, because of the on the spot organizing of doing rides together and extra group shots some missed out, as these were not listed on the program. A shame for sure, but not the fault of the people making things happen on the day itself, as they did start out on the program allotted time and simply took things from there.

Dapper Day in Disneyland Paris itself is a fun affair, albeit quite tiring if you've spend the entire day in the park (I must admit I conked out in the hotel and utterly slept through all the meet ups from 9pm onwards, several of which were arranged the day itself, BUT the group made sure to inform everyone on of them that they saw, doing their utmost in making sure no one got left behind, which was much appreciated by everyone).

You can see that quite a few people do travel down from it (we came down from Belgium with a group of 6, but there were also groups from the UK, people from the Netherlands, and so forth), so there IS interest for it, and the core group that goes for every Dapper Day does their very best to make it work. Plus, let's be realistic, unless you are able to shell out the kind of money needed to visit a US Dapper Day, this is the best alternative you'll get, for Disneyland Paris is a beautiful park, and the people at Dapper Day really are a swell crowd.

That all aside, I think that the Paris' Dapper Day could become much bigger if both the mothership in the US and Disneyland Paris would do a better job in promoting it. Again, I'm not pointing fingers at the people in Europe organizing it, they did what they could, and went above and beyond. But Disneyland Paris and the US are another matter.

First of all, Disneyland Paris could communicate a hell of a lot better. For instance, on the first weekend of September, there was a *rock and roll fest* in *Disney Village*, which would have matched perfectly with Dapper Day. So that weekend would have been a much better choice. Allowing the event on a block-out date for *Francillien* and *Fantasy* annual passes was also a poor choice. Furthermore prior to the event, most of the staff that would have to deal with Dapper Day was utterly unaware of Dapper Day. And they failed to add the event to their events page. Sure, it's not an event by Disneyland Paris, but adding it to the page would draw more people to the park(s), which in turn is good for them too. Poor marketing choices right there. There was also a complete lack of communication when it came down to closures. Two different items of the program had to be changed, quite last minute, one even in the Dapper Day week, because of sudden unannounced closures (that mostly ended up being found out about by accident via fan forums).

The organization of Dapper Day in the US is not blameless either. Far from. If you follow the Dapper Day tumblr account, you can notice how the US parks are very much prioritized and the French event is point blank treated rather like the inferior stepchild. Almost like they want the prestige of organising an event in Paris, but not actual deal with the organisation. Sure it's listed amongst the events, and it gets a mention in texts mostly advertising upcoming US events. Point in case: several photos from the September events in the US have been posted, but to date only 1 photo from the Paris one. And none from the Paris fall event on their website. Things like that are just not ok.

If Dapper Day in Paris wants to become more successful, it needs much more support from the home base in the US. And yes, it's hard to get volunteers, but they clearly already have their web staff in place, so there is no excuse for the poor communication about Paris. Especially not seeing there are photos online they could reblog on e.g. *tumblr*.

Even though Dapper Day in Disneyland Paris is a bit flawed due to many factors (again, none that can be helped by the European staff that organizes on the day itself), it is also a very fun event. I'm glad I attended (even though I missed chunks of it due to circumstances), and if time and money allowed I would attend it again, because people supporting it is the only way to get it to become bigger.

But on the other hand I completely understand that people look at the photos (because there ARE photos online, mainly on flickr pages of attendees) and choose not to bother and save up to visit US parks instead (can't blame them there).

If your budget doesn't allow a US Dapper Day, or you simply don't feel like going to the US, Paris is a worthy substitute in my eyes. The people from the bunch are friendly, they do their best to organize a fun day of hanging out together, the parks are beautiful and full of art nouveau, Victoriana, steampunk, deco and dieselpunk gems left right and center and you know, it's always fun to be able to dress up for a day out. And don't worry if you don't speak French, there are enough people that speak English and are willing to step up as translators so everyone can still communicate with each other.

DAPPER DAY SOIRÉE D'AUTOMNE

Vintage to contemporary chic fashions in Disneyland Paris

Saturday, September 26 2015; Disneyland Park, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography by and provided by Steven DLP, Coralie Michel and Bert Van den Wyngaert.





Event: Halloween season
What: Disney Halloween season
When: October 1 - November 1 2015
Where: Disneyland Parc, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France
Ticket price: depending on the formula.
Website: www.disneylandparis.com

Meanwhile in the pumpkin patch!

Why celebrate Halloween only on the 31st of October when you can for a whole month? Right! Disneyland Paris celebrates it all day every day during October, so here's a little roundup on what's been happening...

Disney decided to step up their character game this year, which leading to the main part of the program consisting of character meet 'n' greets. Alongside having our main man, the princesses and Merida around as all-year-round, there were more scary and not-so-scary characters around.

First up is everyone's favorite sassy aristokitten Marie, who is meeting guests at the *Boarding House*. Which pet's address is the scariest in Paris? *Main Street USA* 18 is the place to be. For the occasion she is rocking an orange ribbon. Why? Because she's a lady, that's why! Just on the other side of *Town Square* you could meet a very sweet goofball. *Goofy Bon Bons* was around with his candy machine. This photo location has so much going on you can always discover new stuff around it.

If you're walking down the middle of *Main Street USA*, just take a little moment to take up the atmosphere... Pumpkins, black cats and ghosts are everywhere! And if you listen carefully, you can even hear them talk! Walking up to *Casey's Corner*, where some ghosts are playing baseball, you walk straight into *Minnie's* sewing atelier and you're always welcome to give her a little hand making Halloweeny dresses or if you're more on the mischievous side, just wait for *Stitch*, who's giving an alien touch to the scene.

Watch out when you get to *Frontierland*! Pumpkin people are taking over this part of the *Disneyland Park*! They're turning everything upside down with sunflowers and hay everywhere! Their captain? The *Pumpkin King* himself! Because yeah, Halloween over Christmas! *Jack Skellington* is answering all your scary questions on his own little cemetery, but be sure to calculate some time if you want to meet him. Of course our main Mouse cannot not join the Halloween fun, he's meeting guests at his pumpkin box.

The last but not least scary part of the character meets in the new *It's Good to be Bad with the Disney Villains* concept. Lots of guests were mistaken it for a full blown show, but actually it was a meet 'n' greet opportunity. *Tokyo Disneyland* kindly lend some of their old Halloween music to get our favorite villains to join a short dance-off! There are 4 different version with a different villain taking the lead. There's a *Maleficent*, *Evil Queen*, *Dr. Facilier* and *Cruella* version. After the show *Maleficent* goes back to the *Castle Courtyard* to meet guests, while the other villains go down from *Castle Stage* to do a very scrummy and quick meet with the guests. Villains participating are *Evil Queen* or *Old Hag*, *Lady Tremaine*, *Anastasia* and *Drizella*, *Gaston*, *Dr. Facilier*, *Queen of Hearts*, *Frollo*, *Cruella*, *Jafar* and *Captain Hook*. Honestly I have to admit that I wish they did make it into a longer show without the meet 'n' greet, because you know... What's better than see the Old Hag dance her evil heart out until she can't say poisoned apple anymore?

The special Halloween parade is the last typical thing for Halloween Season. This cute cavalcade, *Mickey's Halloween Celebration*, is a not-so-scary celebration of the harvest and just autumn in general. The music is specially made for Disneyland Paris and is my favorite parade song ever! Everyone have some fun, *Vive la Vie!* Miss Harvest *Daisy* is opening the cavalcade with her leaf girls, followed by *Donald*, his nephews and *Uncle Scrooge* having fun on the hay stack. *Winnie the Pooh* and his friends are cleaning up all the leaves on the route, followed by *Pluto* getting chased by *Pumpkin Men* and scarecrows. Next up is the barn where *Horace Horsecollar*, *Clarabella Cow* and the *Three Little Pigs* are having a little dance party. After this float it's up to *Mickey Mouse* and his wifey to close the cavalcade.

Can you feel the autumn breeze now?

Review by Gaëtane De Waele.
 Photography by Gaëtane De Waele and Hilde Heyvaert.



HALLOWEEN ON MAIN STREET USA

Friendly ghosts, smiling Jack o' Lanterns everywhere and Disney characters in their Halloween finest.

Photography by Steven DLP and Hilde Heyvaert.



HALLOWEEN IN FONTIERLAND

Welcome to Autumn in the wilds of the Weird West...

Pumpkin people, pumpkin carving, meeting the Pumpkin King - Jack Skellington himself, meeting Vampire Mickey Mouse and maybe even have a glass of human blood.

Photography by Steven DLP and Hilde Heyvaert.



SHOWS AND PARADES

Mickey's Halloween Celebration, It's Good to be Bad and Maleficent's Court.

Photography by Gaëtane De Waele and Steven DLP.



MEET AND GREET CHARACTERS IN THE DISNEYLAND PARK

Main Street USA and Frontierland.

Photography by Gaëtane De Waele (Marie), Hilde Heyvaert (Goofy Bon Bons) and Steven DLP.



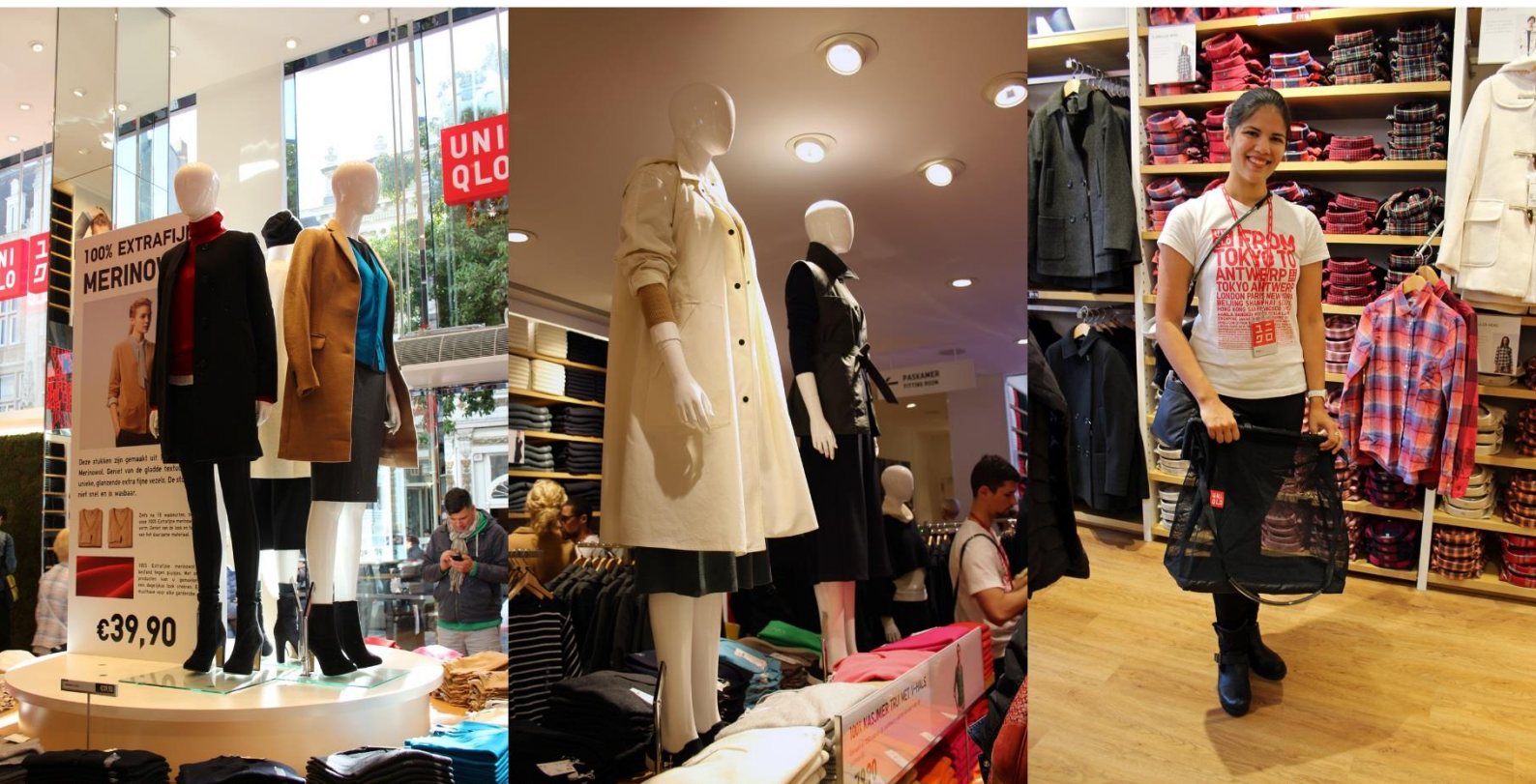


GRAND OPENING OF UNIQLO ANTWERP

From Tokyo to Antwerp, the first UNIQLO flagship store in the Benelux.

Friday, October 2nd, pretty much on the dot at noon, the very first UNIQLO store in the Benelux opened its door on the well-known Meir shopping street in the heart of Antwerp's city center. The Japanese brand chose Antwerp as its latest installment of stores in their plan for world-domination with durable basics that last for years. With a two story bright and easy to navigate, comfortable store filled to the brim with all kinds of garments and their famed heattech warm wear they are the latest addition of international stores gracing one of Europe's fashion capitals.

Photography and text by Hilde Heyvaert.



Event: Retro Made in Asia (Retro MIA 2)
 What: Asiamania convention
 When: October 31 - November 1 2015
 Where: Namur Expo, Namur, Belgium
 Ticket price: €9 in presale or €11 at the door
 Additional € 5 for on-site parking
 Website: www.madeinasia.be

Retro Made in Asia is a significantly smaller version of *Made in Asia* that caters towards a more nostalgic audience of fans. Its overall retro theme focusses on Japanese pop culture of the '80s and '90s and is especially aimed at the French-Belgian *Club Dorothée* generation. The event was held at the *Namur Expo*, a venue that was easily accessible both by car and public transport.

This convention hosted an impressive list of guests that stayed true to its retro values, such as *Shinichiro Watanabe* (best known as the director of *Cowboy Bepop*) and *Club Dorothée* voice actors like *Brigitte Lecordier* (*Dragon Ball*), *Patrick Borg* (*Dragon Ball Z*) or *Vincent Ropion* (*City Hunter*/*Nicky Larson*). Musician *Bernard Minet* also held a concert showcasing his work for *Club Dorothée*.

A fairly varied vendor area, including an artist alley, was established in the middle of the hall, flanked by the guest area and the activity space. A few J-fashion and steampunk stalls were found, along with a yukata try-on stand. Aside of these, one could play board-games, join a small selection of workshops or take part in minigames themed around *Pokémon*.

Retro Made in Asia was a rather small convention: unless you planned on joining a lot of activities, the overall time it took to check out the whole event was about two hours.

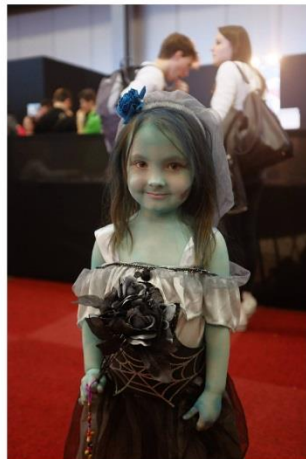
Retro gamers had a lot to look forward to, such as the occasion to try out several authentic consoles, tournaments for games such as *Super Smash Bros* or *Mario Kart*, and an exhibition titled *Success Stories* featuring the history of the *Gameboy* and the *Pokémon* franchise.

However, fans of retro manga who were not part of the *Club Dorothée* generation had rather meager choices of entertainment. Aside of the Belgotaku quiz and one second-hand manga retailer, actual retro manga titles were surprisingly scarce among both the activity list and the vendor stalls. This seemed to contradict the atmosphere the convention was going for.

One big advantage Retro Made in Asia had over the main Made in Asia event was the limitation of tickets to 10.000 per day. Thanks to this arrangement, one could safely wander the convention floor without getting stuck in the crowd, being shoved aside, or having to wonder about fire hazards. It would be a major improvement to the Brussels' Made in Asia convention if a similar ticketing arrangement would be implemented.

Overall, Retro Made in Asia was enjoyable yet a tad disappointing. We had expected to see more retro-themed manga activities and items than we got. If you live nearby or are a big *Club Dorothée* fan, definitely check it out! If not, you might want to save your money for the Made in Asia main event.

Review by Lora-Ely Vannieuwenhuysen and Tom Van Roy.
 Photography by Tom Van Roy and taken from the official Made in Asia facebook account.



EVENT REVIEW: Soirée Halloween



Event: Soirée Halloween
What: Disney Halloween event
When: October 31 2015
Where: Disneyland Parc, Disneyland Paris, Marne-la-Vallée, France
Ticket price: depending on the formula.
Website: www.disneylandparis.com

Come to the party, it's a kooky spooky fright night!

October 31st was the night we had all been waiting for. In Disneyland Paris, there's no *Terrorific Night* nor *Not-So-Scary Party* (anymore), but Disney goes big or goes home on the *Halloween Soirée*. The *Soirée* is a night filled with scary and not-so-scary entertainment all around the park, that's open after regular opening hours with a special ticket. During the day or upon arrival at the park, you can collect your wristbands for the *Soirée*. All rides and all of the park are open until 1.30 pm. Not only is the park open till your heart is filled, it's also the only night in the year where adults can also dress up. The official program is usually fairly cryptic, so most of the extra entertainment is a surprise on the night itself.

As character loving humans, we checked out all the character locations that were indicated on the program before the set times started. On some locations the characters that were supposed to be there were on the program, some of them were not. We started off our journey in *Frontierland*, where you could meet *Tiana*, *Naveen* and *Louis the alligator* near the *Thunder Mesa Riverboat Landing* and *Mickey* and his friends near *Cottonwood Creek* in their best Halloween outfits.

In *Adventureland* there was animation with trolls on stilts, *Aladdin* characters near *Le Passage Enchanté D'Aladdin* and *Mickey* and his friends in *Adventureland* outfits. *Captain Jack Sparrow* didn't want to miss out on the *Soirée* either and was meeting his fans near the *Pirates of the Caribbean* attraction.

Walking into *Fantasyland*, we found *Peter Pan* and *Wendy* talking *Neverland* talks and the villains taking over the *Princess Pavilion* for the night.

We continued our magical road into *Main Street USA* where most of the character action was about. You could find *Miss Bunny* and *Thumper* near *Plaza Gardens*, *Mary Poppins* and *Bert* near the

Gazebo on Town Square and the *Aristocats* near the *Boarding House*, who we all met. Besides them there was also *skeleton Goofy* at the candy machine and *Stitch* in his *Couture Corner* (like every day). We didn't make it into *Discoveryland*, where the *Star Wars* characters were out and about for the *Halloween Force* and *DJ Stitch* and *Goofy* where having a dance party.

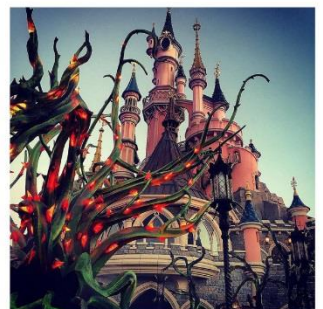
We had the best moment performing *Disney Dreams* along with the *Aristocats*, they really made our night.

The cavalcade was also running down *Main Street* in the dark, which we didn't really watch, because we were queuing for the kittens, but it looked so beautiful with all the lights, they really should have it every night. In *Discoveryland*, you could encounter the dark side in the *Star Wars Jedi Academy* show.

Yet, the best moment of the night still had to come: *Minnie's Pirate Academy*! In this interactive, high energetic show, *Minnie* and her pirates teach you five lessons on how to become a real pirate! Every single person was dancing and singing along. *Chip and Dale* are also there causing cheeky mischief as usual. After learning how to greet like a real pirate: "Aye! Aye! Captain!", it's on to real pirate dance in lesson number 2! A real pirates also has to know how to protect himself in sword fight which we were taught in lesson number 3! Lesson number 4? Singing like a pirate! "Yo ho! Yo ho! A pirate's life for me!". And the final lessons it's a pirate's favorite thing: finding treasure with a little happy dance! After chasing *Captain Hook* and *Master Smee* off the stage with all this real pirate stuff, it's time for a real pirate dance party until your legs can't carry you anymore... After watching this show a good 2 or 3 times, it's time to head back to the hotel, but at least we went out with a bang! And always remember: never smile at a crocodile!

A pirate's life for me! Yeah!

Review by Gaëtan De Waele.
Photography by Gaëtan De Waele, @mademoiselled, @mathieuquenault and Bert Snyers.



Photographic impressions of CHRISTMAS AT DISNEYLAND PARIS

November 7 2015 - January 7 2016, Marne-la-Vallée, France.

Photography by Steven DLP.





Photographic impressions of
the Gothic and historical fashions walk
at the
ANTWERP CHRISTMAS MARKET.

Saturday, December 13 2015; Antwerp, Belgium.

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert.



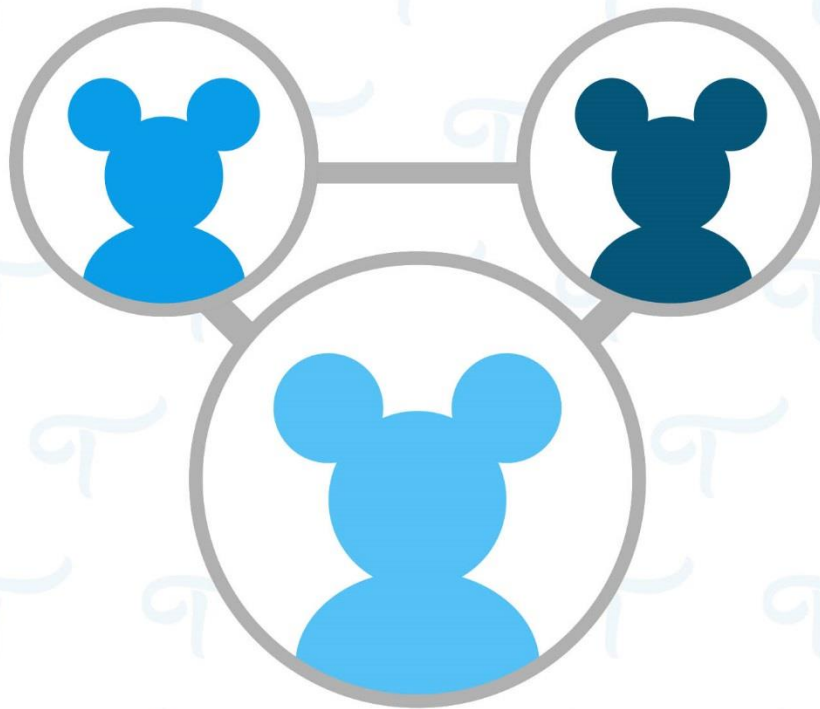
Photographic impressions of the Summer Tales Boutique **VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY**

Sunday, December 13 2015; Houten, The Netherlands.

Photography by and provided by Babs Barning.



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History never to forget.



Hiroshima city and the Ota river







Hiroshima castle



Plum tree and blossoms at Hiroshima castle



Gokoku shrine



A-Bomb Dome, under renovation



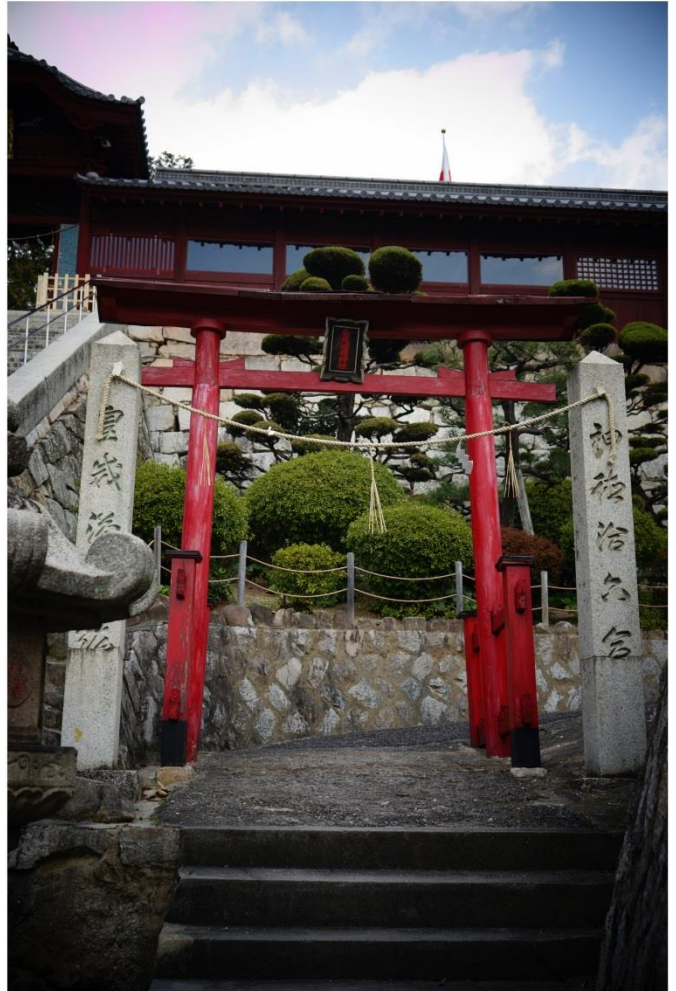




Hiroshimatoshogu

This stone torii was the only thing to survive the A-bomb





Hiroshimatoshogu

TOO WILD PRESENTS



Satsuki

EPOCALIPSE TOUR 2016

MARCH 19 : OSHARECON, UTRECHT (NL)

MARCH 20 : COMIC CON, BRUSSELS (BE)

MARCH 25 : TBC, DUBLIN (IE)

MARCH 29 : MTC, COLOGNE (DE)

MARCH 31 : HANGAR49, BERLIN (DE)

APRIL 1 : VOODOO CLUB, WARSAW (PL)

APRIL 2 : CHAPEAU ROUGE, PRAGUE (CZ)

APRIL 3 : REPLUGGED, VIENNA (AT)

APRIL 9 : MUZIKOS RUSYS, VILNIUS (LT)

APRIL 15 : TBA (UA)

APRIL 16 : TBA (UA)

APRIL 17 : TBA (UA)

APRIL 22 : TBA (RU)

APRIL 23 : TBA (RU)

APRIL 24 : TBA (RU)

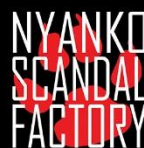
MAY 7 : TUBEN, STOCKHOLM (SE)

MAY 14 : OTAK'EST, PONTARLIER (FR)

MAY 15 : OTAK'EST, PONTARLIER (FR)

MAY 16 : LA MARQUISE, LYON (FR)

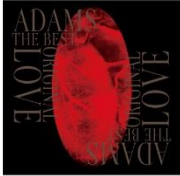
TICKETS INFO & MORE SHOWS TO COME ON TOO-WILD.COM !



J-MUSIC CORNER

Japanese music reviews and interviews

Reviews by Hilde Heyvaert, Charlotte Ruddick, Bert Van den Wyngaert.



ADAMS

"ORIGINAL LOVE"

2 disk best of album

Genre: electro (rock)

European release date: 26.11.2015

Having to review this album right now is a sad thing truly, knowing that this is the last ever release from ADAMS and knowing that there won't be any new tracks coming from this talented duo. But at least, *ORIGINAL LOVE* is the kind of album that embodies the term "going out with a bang". On the first disk, there is a collection of the band's 15 best tracks, featuring of course the all-time favourites *Dizzy Love*, *HERO*, *saseragi*, *YOAHEMAE* and many others. The 2nd disk is a remix album, featuring two new tracks: *TOP SECRET* and *It's alright* alongside re-imagined versions of *Bittersweet*, *saseragi*, *Dizzy Love* and *BOKU NO SEI*. *ORIGINAL LOVE* is truly a must have for all ADAMS fans, and the ideal CD for people that haven't gotten acquainted with the band yet. As far as best of albums go, this is one of the best. If you want to get this album, it's available online on <http://www.ramenevents.kingeshop.com>
BCM's favorite track: it's a tie between *Dizzy Love* and *LOVE ME*.



CRYSTAL LAKE

"THE SIGN" (European edition)

Full album

Genres: metalcore

Raging drums and ditto guitars, screaming, growling and biting vocals, this is *THE SIGN* by Japanese metalcore band CRYSTAL LAKE. It's reminiscent of late 1990s Sepultura, during their ROOTS days, from time to time, which really isn't a bad thing. Quite on the contrary. Despite that particular comparison, CRYSTAL LAKE is definitely a band with it's own sound, in its own right. Sure, you have to be a fan of this particular kind of music to be able to appreciate *THE SIGN*, but if you are, this is most definitely an album you are very likely going to enjoy. And as an added bonus: the European release is the capable hands of *JPU Records*, so it's actually easy (and customs free) to get your hands on this 10 track album!

BCM's favorite track: *Astra 1*



Season of Ghosts

"Remixing the Paradox"

Remix album

Genre: electronic

Release date: 24.12.2015

Available for free via

seasonofghosts.com/remixing-the-paradox-free-album-download

This new 9 song release, is as the title implies, a remix album of *Season of Ghosts*' debut album *The Human Paradox*, which was released late last year. The remixes are more uniform than the originals, giving them a distinctive get-up-and-dance feeling, making you wish you were at a good alternative club dancing the night away. For this album *Sophia Sama* collaborated with a wide range of artists from all over the world to give her songs a musical make-over, and yet still here is a certain red line that runs through the entire album style wise without touching the particular identity of the songs. This is just makes you want more original tracks from Season of Ghosts more!

BCM's favorite track: *Dream Paralysis* (ZOMBIE SAM remix)



the GazettE

"UGLY"

Single

Genre: metal

Merely 6 weeks after the European release of *DOGMA*, the *GazettE* is back with a three song single, *UGLY*, also distributed in Europe via *JPU Records*. It may only three songs, but the band made them all very different without losing a sense of cohesion through the release, which makes *UGLY* not just varied, but keeps it interesting to listen to over and over again. Makes you wonder what they will come up with next.

BCM's favorite track: *GODDESS*



Shota Yokoyama

"Melting"

Free release via soundcloud

soundcloud.com/shotayokoyamamusic

Melting was the very first track of what was to become *Shota Yokoyama's* solo project, an instrumental track showcasing just how talented an instrumentalist and programmer he was, taking the listener on a rollercoaster of emotion. It's the kind of track that lifts you up and makes you wanting more. And this particular case, a bittersweet melody making you love what was and wonder what would have been.



ADAMS

Original Love tour

Bar Live 301,

Roubaix, France

Thursday, November 26 2015

Because we feel that not writing about this concert would be an injustice to *Shota Yokoyama's* musical legacy, which is quite brilliant, we decided to go ahead with this page after all. The concert at *Bar Live 301* was the kick-off of the first leg of the *Original Love* world tour, and the first European concert after the band's first shows in Hong Kong, China.

It was clear that Shota and ADAM were glad to be back in France, and this particular venue (a traditional stop on every European tour starting their 2nd one). It was practically a full house, with many familiar faces amongst the audience, as well as some new ones, a testament that ADAMS had both loyal fans (often of the first European hour) as well as kept on gathering new ones.

They performed for a good two hours, treating fans to a lot of classics from their first best-of album: *Original Love* (which had its European release that day, so it was a bit of a release party as well as a concert), but also to a new song, *Top Secret*, published on the remix CD included with *Original Love* (as it's a 2 disk CD).

The fans reacted with tons of joy and excitement on every single song, and especially favourites such as *LOVE ME*, *Dizzy Love*, *YOAKEYAE* and in particular *HERO* did great.

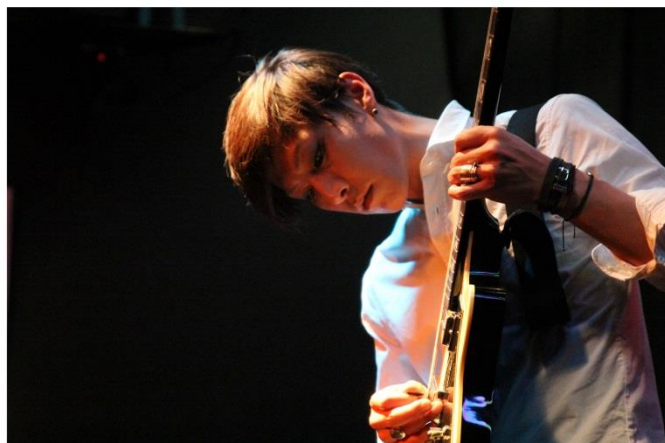
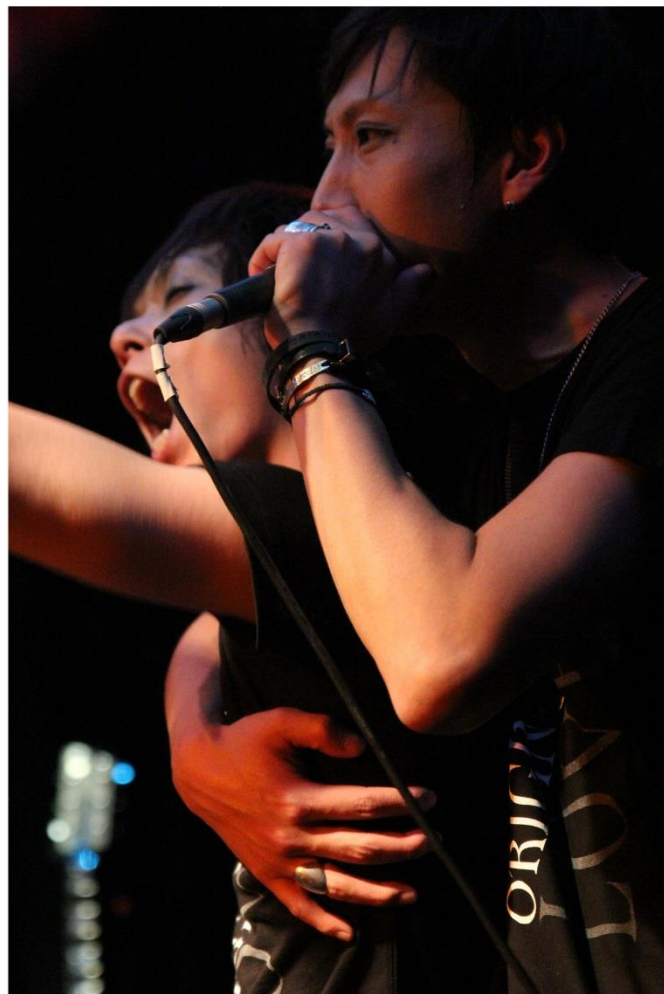
There was singing and dancing along, head banging and the occasional improvised mini moshing at the back of the venue (because the moshers in Roubaix are considerate of others and do it at the back where they don't bother a soul).

Shota's punk-rock inspired guitar solo got everyone head banging along, and shouting in enthusiasm.

It wasn't just the crowd that was enthusiastic, but the band as well, as they visibly enjoyed the performance and gave it their all during both the concert itself and the encore.

It is truly regrettable we won't be able to see ADAMS perform again, because they were a very talented duo, that was clearly on the road to greatness, which makes the tragic end all the more miserable. But we were glad to have been a part of the sadly, incredibly short, *Original Love* tour, and happy that we were at this fantastic concert. Thank you for everything guys, and Shota, you will NEVER be forgotten, nor will your music.

Review by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert. Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Photographic impressions of **ADAMS LIVE AT BAR LIVE 301**

Thursday, November 26 2015, Roubaix, France

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert



#shootfilm #35mm
ADAMS ANALOG AT BAR LIVE 301

Thursday, November 26 2015, Roubaix, France

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert



#OriginalLove





As a tribute to the life and works of Shota Yokoyama, who was taken from us unexpectedly on November 30th, we are republishing every past interview with him as well as memories from loved ones, friends and fans.

May you rest in peace Shota, we will never forget you.

A tribute to Shota Yokoyama

It was always a good rival is longing for me from a young age!
Goodbye Shota!

Charlie, X Made Alcoholic Santaclaus (XMAS)

I will never forget how kind and talented Shota was, but most importantly, I will never forget him as my friend. Who would smile at me bemusedly when I had another crazy idea, but would go along in it nevertheless, because it was just another adventure. Who I teased about his lack of comfy shoes, and who teased me back whenever he saw fit. Who stole toilet paper for me from the men's room when the ladies' loos ran out, and who would quickly borrow my crazy toy cameras when he thought I wasn't looking together with Charlie, leaving me to find photos I never took later. May you rest in peace Shota, I will never forget you.

Hilde Heyvaert, editor in chief BCM

I was shocked when I heard that Shota had been hospitalised in Poland, and died shortly after. I still can't believe how this could happen to someone so young, so full of life. He was a brilliant musician and it's tragic that his life and career were cut short so abruptly. I must admit that I mostly know Shota from the ADAMS shows I attended and from some photoshoots we did together, but he was someone that I would have loved to get to know better, because I do believe we could have become good friends. I regret that I didn't put more effort into this, you always assume that you have more than enough time, right up to the point where that turns out to be untrue. So even though we weren't close, I still respected him a lot, and I regret that we didn't get the chance to get to spend more time together. In any case I will never forget him. My sympathies are with his family and friend, and I offer them my sincerest condolences and all the strength needed to deal with this horrible loss.

Bert Van den Wyngaert, BCM photographer



Shota was not only one of my favorite artists, he was a person who almost felt like a friend, a person I looked up to and cherished a lot. He never failed to make me smile with his funny English, his too clingy hugs sometimes and his big passion for music. It was an honour to hear your very last painful note on stage in Warsaw before you collapsed. And thank God, we asked you for (what we didn't know would be) our very last hug in Dijon. You are and will always be one of the greatest persons I have ever met. Thank you for all the memories. My prayers go out to Shota, his wife, his music partner and his family. Your precious broken piece.

Tiny, ADAMS Belgium support

I'm still in daze, I still can't believe it. Shota was taken from us too early, nobody was able to save him, it's a huge loss but there will always be so many things I'll keep in my heart as dear memory. How I met ADAMS for the first time in July 2013, how I fell instantly in love with them, how I promised myself to go to more shows next tour because I want to feel that warm lovey-dovey feeling in my heart after their first concert again, it was truly "Dizzy Love" at first sight, again and again and again...and so I did. They always asked for more, Shota asked for more, "Give me your everything", and I hope I was able to let him and ADAM feel the love and passion they gave me through ADAMS' music. I'm very grateful for the time I had with Shota, ADAM, all the Eves, we are still a family after all. Thank you everybody, I really love you. I'm missing you, Shota. I'll miss you forever. Thank you always.

Azu, Germany

Thank you Shota-San for all emotion that you gave me with your music in every moment of my life. Thank you for your music, your hard work. Thank you so much everything. I miss you so much, miss your smile, your music. Miss you! You will be always in my heart!

Carmen, Italy

I didn't meet Shota, didn't see him during a live. I just had some talks with him on facebook. He was so nice and friendly... It will be strange but I think of him as of the star up there in the sky. The star which is as bright as sun. Even if I know he died, he will always be there and always will be a star... That is how I think of him and how I feel about him... I don't know what I could write more... He was so amazing... He was perfect musician... and amazing guy... I will never forget him...

Dominika

Shota, I will remember him like a man close to his fans, very kind, and above all very talented... also a good producer thanks to whom I could discover X'MAS! Step by step he made a place in the music world, he deserved to succeed, to go far in this way... Since the first time I saw him in the stage, I have found that he emitted a mad aura, he was on stage where he should be... and it's here he left us... I admired his work, his career, what he gave off... I wished he realizes his dreams... in my mind he was the best artist, and he will be forever! I could discuss with him a very short time, he told me he will be at the Japan Touch with Adam, I told him "I will be here!". And I was here, just for them, I waited... The shock when I learned his brains attack, the tears of sadness and hatred that flowed... The next day, a god, an angel, my favorite artist flew away... I will never forget him and his songs. I must thank him for his concerts, songs, and short moments which make me so happy... Now, each time I look the sky I think of him... Thank you for all Shota

Joanna, France

I have to say thank you ADAMS. Their music give me love and everything. ADAMS will exist forever in my heart.

Olga, Hungary

It really hurts he passed away. But his wish is that their precious broken pieces smile and spread the universe with love. I'll do that for him and for the EVES. :) <3

Leila, Hungary

Dear Shota, I hope that one day I'll get the chance to tell you, that I'd love to listen the unplugged edition of Seseeragi. I hope we shall continue talking about music. So see you in the world of beautiful sounds and feelings, where all of us could listen to numberless compositions of yours and enjoy music all together. And now please shine brightly and sleep in peace. Thank you for everything I got from you.

Beata, Poland

Shota's sudden passing left a big hole which possibly can't be filled anymore. He was a husband, a son, a friend, a work partner but in the first place he was an artist. And as an artist and as the kind and determined person he was, I respect him a lot. Still everything feels so surreal. Everyone had so many plans, everything just started. Now we must find our paths without him somehow. I want to cherish every single moment with him, every smile, every glimpse, everything he was. Shota left his footprints in so many hearts and though he will be remembered differently by everyone he met on his journey, ultimately the love he spread will stay. I miss you, Shota. Please watch over your loved ones as you fly through the sky.
いろいろありがとう。「お疲れー!!」

Saki, Germany

We are two sisters, Consuelo and Samantha, Italian fans of ADAMS. We had no way to meet Shota but fortunately we have appreciated his kindness by the many messages left with love for his fans. He has always shown a gentle welcome to all greetings and messages of love that he received on social and this has touched us. Through his work with ADAMS everyone could seize all his efforts and charisma. His message of love he wore around the world was admirable, his music has reached the hearts of many people. Shota, with Adam, had embarked on a journey that had brought something new and beautiful in the music world and we will always be grateful to him for everything he has given. He will be in our heart forever!

Consuelo and Samantha, Italy

Shota, your life was short but wonderful. I really wish I could have met you in person, so I could tell you face to face how I feel. You were so sweet, loving and funny. You left such an impact on your Eves and the people that loved you. I hope wherever you are you're guiding the reins of your own brilliant star. We love and miss you very much.

EI, USA

When I met him the first time, I was too nervous and nearly wasn't able to talk to him, but he was so kind to me. I'll never forget his smile. I always look up to him, he's a great musician and personality. One of my biggest idols, my hero. He gave me so much happy memories, I'll keep them in my heart forever. I'll keep Shota in my heart forever.

Alicia

Shota was and will always be very important to me. He and ADAM really changed my life. I fell in love with them at first sight. Thanks to them I gained wonderful memories which I won't forget. There is so much to say but I just would like to thank him. So... thank you Shota. Thank you for everything you have done for us. For everything moment you spektakl only for making us happy with your presence in our life. Thank you for everything, because you gave colors to my world. For your beautiful smile which has been giving me strength the whole time. I am happy that I had the last chance to see you, to hear your voice. I will always remember your music. Every single song. Dizzy love. Shota will stay in my heart forever.

Kornelia

Shota was a hero. No. He's still my hero. He was so strong, selfless. Always thinking, caring about the others, the fans, his friends, his family. Precious. So precious. He was always there, asking me if I was okay, if I travelled well, if I came back home safely, if I was doing well with my job, always caring. He was a friend, my friend? Maybe, he often said so, that we were friends. Also he was like an annoying big brother. He was always joking, like about my height, saying that I was too short, saying I needed to grow up. He was always smiling. Always taking time to speak to everyone. He always had time for me. He was really a precious person and someone important to me. And I will always remember how he was worried when I would cry, how he was considerate when I wasn't well. How he always had the good words to make me feel better. I will remember the precious man he was. The friend. The big brother a bit silly but always caring. I will remember him. シュロ"

Shuro

Dear shota, you taught me a lot! I will always appreciate you as one of the strongest person I was able to meet. Thank you for everything.

Sato

What Shota means for me? He was one of my favorite compositor ever, each sound he created was so unique and his guitar skills were so amazing! When you saw him playing guitar you couldn't do something other than looking at how amazing he was and how he loved it! His personality was really sweet and I will always miss the Goodnight Eves. For me Shota was one of the most beautiful human beings and he still will be forever.

Ethan

To Shota who had such a bright smile and a kind heart, thank you so much for having been part of our life, to make us part of your adventures in ADAMS, thank you for giving us strength through your music we will miss you very, very much, an amazing guitarist, an amazing person that we know will see us from above in the sky

Lia



NEO-SEXUAL ELECTRO-POP/ROCK DUO ADAMS CONQUERED THE EUROPEAN J-MUSIC SCENE WITH THEIR TOUR LAST SPRING, AND WILL SOON BE BACK WITH A NEW SINGLE. THEY RECENTLY SIGNED WITH BELGIAN ASIAN MUSIC ORGANISERS RÅMEN EVENTS. CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING, WE SPOKE TO THEM FOR THIS INTERVIEW.



Could you, by way of introduction, say something positive about each other?

Shota: Adam has a great voice, but maybe the greatest thing is that he's a really nice and good person.

Adam: Shota always knows the important things we have to do now: where to go, what to do and how to do it. He's my brain and a nice guy.

How did you come to form ADAMS?

Shota: We met a few years ago when we were playing in the same band in Japan. Unfortunately that project came to an end within a quite short period and everybody took a different way. As for me, I became music producer through my company *HighFEEL Japan*, and Adam wanted to become a solo vocalist. He asked me to produce his project and I said yes. So we started to work together, and finally I added my guitar skills and decided to join Adam in his project, as a band.

How would you say your music has evolved from your first album *NEOSEXUAL* to your singles *Boku no sei / Kimi no sei* and *Bittersweet*?

Shota: *Bittersweet* is the natural evolution from *DIZZY LOVE*, the first single we released. *Bittersweet*'s sound is harder, more aggressive. We did it because we wanted to add a touch of visual kei sound in our tracks. We have lots of fans who like it, and I myself am very fond of 80's visual-kei.

Do you think the life of a musician is bittersweet?

I'm not sure. I don't think so. Because everybody's life is bittersweet, not just that of musicians and artists.

You incorporate the theme of homosexuality in your music and imagery, how would you say that in terms of gay rights, things are for the LGBT community in Japan right now?

My personal opinion is that love doesn't need rights to be real. In Japan and many places in the world the rights for gay people are not the same as in several countries of Europe, for instance. It's a fact. I know a lot of people are fighting to change it, but I'm not a gay rights activist myself. Although I do care a lot about people's feelings.

You use a lot of electronics for your music, which are your favourite pieces of equipment to work with?

That's a secret.

Shota, could you see yourself take the step from a traditional guitar to a computerized one (such as the Misa Kitara which runs on Linux) in the future?

No. Of course I need real guitar sound all the time. Because I'm a guitarist. I use a computer synthesiser, and lots of other electronic things, but the guitar is the only thing that must always be real.

You've toured Europe past Spring, what do you remember most fondly from that tour?

Shota: I have lots of memories. We moved around by car a lot, which was very hard but at the time I enjoyed it. Sometimes we stopped at the fuel stations and it was great to see the wonderful views.

Adam: The last show in The Netherlands, it was an event where nobody knew about us at that time, but when we opened the show, we played a very good concert. Everybody enjoyed, and I was very surprised by their reaction.

How would you say that the European audience differs from the Japanese one?

It's the same but the situation is different. It was our first time in another country so a very special moment. Fans were waiting for us, which was a surprise. Fans are the same everywhere, they're all great!

What's the best and the worst about touring and performing live in your opinion?

The most difficult thing on tour is to stay motivated. We want to give the best possible performance everywhere. It's difficult because we're sometimes tired, and if our performance is not perfect, we feel down. But we must give our best anyway. Good things are of course to see the fans' faces and know their feelings. That's the great thing about going on tour.

You've just joined Hinode Records and Råmen Events for your CD distribution and tours in Europe, what do you expect from these collaborations?

Shota: We hope to gain more fans. And to get more publicity because we want everybody to know ADAMS. In a good or bad way, I don't care, but we need promotion and more people to come to our shows. If they love me, I love them. I want publicity in the visual kei and manga scenes. *HighFEEL Japan* is still a small company, so I chose this collaboration and I expect a lot from it.

Could you tell us a little about your plans for the end of this year and 2014?

We are planning the release of a new album, probably, and have started thinking about the next European Tour. It's still a secret, but it will probably be in spring of 2014. We are continuing creating new songs and PV's. At this time of our project we really want to meet new fans to make ADAMS bigger.

This edition of BCM is our annual holiday edition, so as a closing note, do you have some seasonal (holiday) message for our readers?

Shota: Merry Christmas everyone, I'm Shota! Please keep on following us and let's meet in Europe next spring.

Adam: Have a happy holiday, Eves, we love you, always.

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography provided by Råmen Events.
Many thanks to ADAMS and Aurélie Råmen.



BCM

A Belgian J-Culture Magazine
Nr 18: May - June 2014

Interviews

Japan Expo

Too Wild

DJ SiSeN

LIV'ERT

Fashion & features

Classic Lolita

Spring



Neosexual electro rock
ADAMS



HIGHFEEL EUROPE/ADAMS PRESSCONFERENCE

HIGHFeEL Japan is the company founded in Japan by *Shota Yokoyama*, guitarist and one of the members of the electro duo *ADAMS*. Together with *Aurélie Vandecasteele* of *Râmen Events*, he has founded a European subsidiary of his artist management company: *HIGHFeEL Europe*.

The company offers a variety of artist services to artists from all scenes and disciplines.

ADAMS was present on the 14th of March introducing their new album, *SIXNINE*, released in Europe prior to Japan (the Japanese release date is June 6), in time for the kick off for their European tour.

Media teams present were able to ask questions either relating to HIGHFeEL Japan, HIGHFeEL Europe or *ADAMS* after an introduction of all projects, during the press conference organised by *Râmen Events* at the *Made in Asia* convention on March 14th. Questions asked by *BCM* are marked in blue, whilst questions asked by others are marked in purple.

What does the existence of HIGHFeEL Europe concretely mean for Râmen Events?

Aurélie Vandecasteele aka *Aurélie Râmen*: I will stop taking care of the tour management of visual kei bands, which is now taken over by the brand new company led by *Sophie Debusne*: *Derranged Show*. They have taken over the visual kei part from *Râmen Events* (redaction: *Derranged Show* associated with *Râmen Events* and specialises in touring with vk bands). To be honest I am a bit tired of doing one shot tours. By that I mean touring with bands for a few weeks who then disappear from the scene and no one in Europe hears from them again for another 3 to 4 years. I would rather focus on a few artists fully and bring them back regularly. The team of *Râmen Events* will of course continue as it does now, with a little changes.

If you were a colour, which colour would you be?

Shota Yokoyama: Purple, because violet is the theme colour for neosexual *smiles*.

ADAM: Actually violet was also the colour of our single *Bittersweet*, of our make-up, because if you met red with blue you get violet.

Did you always have the ambition to be on stage?

Shota: *nods* yes absolutely.

ADAM: Me too.

Shota, what does Europe represent for you? And why expand HIGHFeEL into Europe?

When I visited Europe in the past for our 4 date tour in 2013, I really liked what I saw. So I wanted to put in the work and effort to have a presence here as well and just went for it, all the way. It's an opportunity I didn't want to miss out on. That's why I choose to go for an international focus rather than a national one in just Japan. The two divisions of HIGHFeEL make a good connection between Europe and Japan. Mind you, Europe is just a stage, I'm hoping to expand even further, I'd like to go to South America next.

As we've not seen you live in Belgium yet, could you tell us a little more about the stage performance concept and outfits?

Aurélie: Both are based on their concept of "boys love". Of course everything is quite demure and modest, especially here because there are minors present at conventions. The outfits are, as you can see, loosely based on school uniforms, which has been left over from the concept of their previous single *Seseragi*. School uniforms are part of their past, and they liked to bring it into the visual aspect of the band as well.

Why choose the concept of boys love, and the boys love scene in particular? What does it mean to you personally?

Shota: I come from the 90s visual kei scene. Both visual kei and anime are huge in Japan. Boys love on the other hand is a very small scene, but at the same time very hot, it's very popular. So I saw that as an opportunity and just went for it. For the record, I want to state that I don't care whether a boy loves a boy, or a girl loves a girl, or a boy loves a girl and the other way around. Love is love and that's all that matters *smiles*.

Why go for the underdog position though?

Shota: I've been making music, playing the guitar and writing songs for a long time and I preferred to be part of a niche scene and build from there rather than compete with others in large scenes. It sets us apart nicely. In Japan it's very simple: either you're in the major scene or you're in the indies. I know that this way I'm not putting myself



in a position that will allow me to make loads of money, especially as our concept can be seen as a bit "cheap". But we really believe in our concept, which is very strong, and our music, so I truly believe we'll get there. We're unique, that will set us apart and allow for people to notice us, because it makes people disinclined to make decisions about our music without properly listening to it first. You know how it sometimes goes, you'll ask a friend if they've heard a certain band, they'll ask what genre it is, it's one they don't like and they dismiss it instantly, which is harder to do with ADAMS. So I think that being in this niche, boys love scene, will actually help us get ahead. Especially as what we do musically is miles away from the music generally associated with visual kei.

What made you become a musician?

ADAM: I was watching a TV show which had musicians on it. One of the bands on that show in particular inspired me. The singer was rubbish and I felt I could do better *laughs*.

Shota: In my case things went almost exactly the same actually. The only difference is that I begged my parents to buy me a guitar and I started out playing that. I was a huge *Kiyoharu* fan and I wanted to learn how to play his songs myself. Things evolved from there on.

Shota, how did you end up becoming a producer?

Initially I worked with my friends and their bands and had some bands of my own. I did some recording, studied music in school, that sort of thing. Then for a while I didn't play the guitar and got very interested in the Japanese talent scene. I made a lot of contacts amongst talent, management and record company executives. One guy was interested in me and that's how the ball got rolling. I learned a lot from him and after a while I realised that I could do all these things myself, and so I started HIGHFeel to actually do so.

Do you still remember who was the first artist from outside of Japan you bought a record of?

Shota: *The Sex Pistols*.

ADAM: *Guns N' Roses*.

What's your biggest ambition?

Shota: I'm dreaming big for sure. Some day I want to have a star on the Hollywood walk of fame *grins*. To be big in Hollywood is definitely the end game.

ADAM: I'm already living my dream *smiles*!

What are your future plans?

Aur lie: After this tour they will start working on a new album and after that we will try to arrange a tour in South America.

Shota: It will be a new style entirely.

What's your impression of Belgium?

Shota: I must admit that prior to coming to Belgium I didn't know very much about the country other than the clich  things. But everything's been great so far. I am wowed by the amazing architecture. People here are very kind and far more approachable than people in Japan. They're less busy and impatient as the Japanese, especially in Tokyo. And there's beer! Perfect *laughs*!

There's more than just music to HIGHFeel, could you tell us a little more about that?

Aur lie: Any art discipline can be signed to HIGHFeel. At this point we already work with photographer *Ry ta Sakai*, who people probably know best as the photographer of ADAMS. We will work with literally anyone with Shota as producer or manager. Photographers, artists, fashion designers, musicians, anything is possible, this is just the beginning.

Is the idea also to bring Europe to Japan?

Aur lie: Yes of course, at this point Shota is looking for a female, French language singer from Europe to produce in Japan.

What does Shota know about Europe?

Aur lie: He mostly knows the electronic music scene: electro, house, things like that. But he's learning more every day.

Official data:

R men Events official site: www.ramen-events.com

HIGHFeel official site: <http://highfeel.jp>

ADAMS official site: www.adamshota.com

Transcription by Hilde Heyvaert for BCM and Hotensal.fr

Photography by Bert Van den Wyngaert.

Many thanks to R men Events, HIGHFeel and ADAMS for the invitation to the press conference!





NEOSEXUAL ADAMS

ADAMS was back in Europe for their second tour on our continent. After just four dates last year in June, they returned for a tour that would span over a month and touch over a handful of countries in total. We caught up with them before their concert in Roubaix, France, to ask them some more questions about their music, creative process, life on the road and of course their new album SIXNINE.

If you were to introduce the music of ADAMS to someone that doesn't know it yet by letting them listen to just one song, which one would you chose and why?

ADAM (vocals): *Dizzy Love*, because when you watch the music video for that song you'll really understand our concept.

Shota Yokoyama (vocals, guitar): I would choose *Dizzy Love* also, for the same reason.

It's your second European tour, what do want to do different compared to the first one, and what are your greatest expectations for this tour?

ADAM: The overall feeling is different, we can actually relax on this tour. And this time we really get to look fans in the eye.

Shota: This tour is more "adult", that's to say, there are more dates, more fans are coming to see us and there is more time in between shows. This time we can take things step by step and work to gain more fans as well. Last time everything had to happen in just four shows in which to give everything, the schedule was incredibly tight. I also feel like we, as a band, are growing up during this tour, it's far better for the evolution of ADAMS.

How exactly do you prepare for a European tour?

ADAM: I bought a lot of underwear *laughs*! I definitely won't run out *laughs*!

Shota: We didn't actually do anything special or different, we just rehearsed and then went for it, it's all very natural.

You've just released your new album, SIXNINE, at Made in Asia, how would you say your music has evolved from your past works to this?

ADAM: I'd say we dug deeper on this one.

Shota: At first we released *NEOSEXUAL* and the following singles and EP, this allowed people to discover our music and our concept, which is also "neo sexual", our first release was to give a first impression so to speak. For *SIXNINE*, which has 12 songs and is a full CD, we kept on working in that same concept, growing as musicians and in our musical ability and style of song writing, but at the same time it's the end of the theme, the final format of the concept if you will, everything has come together on *SIXNINE*. Which means maybe the theme will change as well as the sound with our next release, which will again be different.

Do you have an idea of what you'll do for the next theme?

Shota: No not yet, but I'm sure we'll figure it out and it'll be great *smiles*.

You're performing at several conventions on this tour, how do you feel a live at a con differs from a gig in a regular venue?

Shota: I'd say the performances are almost the same. At conventions hardly anyone knows ADAMS, whereas at lives more fans than people that are just curious about us come to see us perform. So a convention is definitely far more of an opportunity to introduce people that don't know us yet to our music. Live houses are generally filled with fans, this makes us think in different ways when it comes to the performance.

What do you do different when performing at a convention?

Shota: Well it's almost always the same as in a live house, but sometimes we just make small changes we decide on the day itself.

What message do you hope to convey to the people that come to see you live on this tour via your music?

ADAM: Look us in the eye.

Shota: *Adding to ADAM's response* so you know we are here. Because eyes are the mirror of the soul.

Which event that happened to you as a member of ADAMS would you say influences you the most when creating music now?

Shota: The first shoot *Ryôta Sakai* (editor: Ryôta Sakai is the band's art director) did with ADAMS.

ADAM: Someone very important to me passed away, that moment became very important to me.

Fashion is very important to a band, could you name any Belgian designers that you like?

Shota: I love fashion but I don't care about who makes what. I just buy what I like.

ADAM: I don't know any Belgian designers, but my favourite is *Vivienne Westwood* *smiles*.

Auréli Vandecasteele, who is in *HIGHFeel Europe* with Shota, and CEO of *Râmen Events* who were organising the tour, came to join us at this point: *chuckles* Likes her? He's crazy about her designs more like.

Does your personal style differ much from the fashions you wear on stage with ADAMS?

ADAM: My personal style is very comfy and natural. Which is quite the opposite from what I wear on stage because there I'm showing off *smiles*.

Shota: For me it's quite the same, it's mostly the accessories that are different. I like them to be rather more showy when I'm on stage.

Editor: ADAM was wearing a comfortable grey and black yarn woollen sweater and black jeans. Shota was wearing black jeans and a black t-shirt with print.

As a closing note, could you tell our readers something about ADAMS that isn't commonly known?

Auréli: Oh can I answer this? I know loads of things *laughs*!

Shota: ADAM eats a lot *laughs*! He never stops and can eat all day *laughs*!

Auréli: You can feed him all day *laughs*!

ADAM: It is true, I like to eat and I do eat a lot! I love bread, potatoes and pasta. And the sizes here are so huge! I loved the giant steak I had in Brussels on our first night! I'm definitely profiting of being in Europe to eat all the things I can't, or at least not easily, eat in Japan.

Shota: The Japanese servings are definitely a lot smaller. I had mussels in Brussels and I got like a whole kilo, I was so shocked.

Auréli: ADAM of course stole some of Shota's mussels, aside from eating his huge steak *chuckles*. It's quite amazing how much he can eat. It's a good thing too, because if we go out to eat and someone can't finish their meal, ADAM will eat what's left and nothing goes to waste *laughs*.

Shota: I'm very clean! I could clean all day once I get started. And I love doing dishes *laughs*.



Official site: www.adamshota.com

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/adamandshota

Shota of ADAMS

Back in Belgium



Shota Yokoyama, producer, guitarist and co-vocalist of ADAMS, was back in Belgium to do some extra promotion for his band as well as his production company HIGHFeel. he runs together with Aurélie of Râmen Events.

We met up with Shota and Aurélie in a cosy retro café on the Antwerp South area for a talk over drinks about their plans.

You are currently in Europe, not to perform, but to promote ADAMS, other than gaining publicity for the band, what is your main goal on these visits?

To be honest, aside from the promotional aspect, I'm mainly here on vacation *smiles*.

Are you going to profit of being here to do some sight-seeing you weren't able to do whilst you were on tour?

I haven't made any concrete plans I must admit, my main goal is to take things as they come and to be inspired. But if someone takes me along to cool places I definitely won't object *smiles*.

We're currently in Antwerp, in Entrepot du Congo, one of the retro style cafés in town. What's your first impression of the city so far?

I like it here so far, Antwerp looks like a very interesting town and I look forward to seeing more in a bit. I could spend all three weeks of my European stay here quite happily I think.

The last time you were in Europe was March, which was the most memorable moment for you from that tour?

Shota: I have quite a few, but I think that our performance for Zhivoe-TV in Russia topped it off. It started out really quite stressful and the mood was weird, but the audience was amazing. They really supported us and loved our music as one, that was very touching. The show there was great.

Aurélie: The promoter was very strict due to the Russian law, what with the band's concept of boys love and all. Especially as there were minors involved. It was also very stressful for the band. Originally it was going to be an 18+ show, but that got changed to all ages and thus the way the band behaved on stage had to be taken into account so we wouldn't accidentally do something illegal as there were minors in the audience. They were also very strict about what merchandise we could and couldn't sell. But the audience really was fantastic, it was a great crowd and a memorable show.

You met a lot of fans on the tour, which fan stood out the most?

Our fans in Switzerland for sure! There were so many people that came to our concert at PolyManga in Lausanne. A lot of them were cosplaying too, and teenagers.

When we last spoke, you mentioned that ADAMS was evolving into a new theme altogether, and that you were closing the neo-sexual chapter. Could you tell us a little more about the next chapter for the band at this point?

We're actually working on our next album right now. It will be more electronic. We'll keep our theme, but we've evolved it at the same time. Speed wise the tracks will be more industrial. The music of course won't be anything resembling that genre, I'm just trying to illustrate the tempo. Hopefully the new single will be out around the last week of September, nothing is set in stone yet but that's the time we're aiming for. I can tell you that it will be a love song though.

(Editor: Akasime, meaning Autumn Rain, will be available online from the end of September and will be a two track release. You can read a review in this edition of BCM).

Japanese musicians are often multi-instrumentalists. We've all seen you play the guitar, but what other instruments do you play?

Aside from the guitar I play the bass and that's it. I can play synthesizers and use electronic music programs on the computer to compose songs though *smiles*. I'd love to learn how to play the piano though. Someday I will *smiles*!



Which are your favourite brands of instruments?

When it comes to recording and song writing I use a lot of *Fender* and *Gibson Les Paul* instruments but when it comes to performing I love *Mosrite*. My guitar by them looks great and has an easy sound. Fender and Gibson are both good and I play them a lot but they just don't have that same stage appeal. To be honest I can play anything and I'm not that set in my brands. I just need grease for my strings and I'm good to go *smiles*.

Did you write any new songs for ADAMS whilst on the road in Europe that we'll be able to hear on your next release?

I didn't actually, I never write whilst on tour.

Aside from ADAMS, you are also further developing HIGHFeel. Could you tell us a little more about new things that are happening with those projects since we spoke in March?

Shota: Aurélie, this one is for you.

Aurélie: We recently signed *Saga*, which is a trio composed out of a Japanese, Chinese and Korean member. Not only do they make music together, they live together too. We're actually bringing them out to Europe on a tour from October 31st 'till November 16th. Shota will be coming along too, as he is acting as tour manager, and I'll be the driver *laughs*. No I jest, no doubt I'll drag some luggage around as well *laughs*!

Shota: I think what they're doing is great. Their music may be a bit difficult style wise, as they are neither traditionally Japanese, Korean or Chinese in what they do. So they don't fit into any of the cultural clichés people will have about their country and their country's music. It's also not visual kei. But it's a great project and I hope people will support it like we do.

This edition is our traditional Halloween edition. Do you have plans for Halloween yet? What would you like to do to celebrate the holiday if you had the choice?

Aurélie: Yes of course! We'll be on tour with *Saga* as that's the starting date of the tour. I'll be a horse as usual *laughs*.

Shota: I want to be a vampire *grins*!

In November you will perform in South America for the first time, what are your hopes and expectations for those two lives?

Shota: I hope it means we will get more promotion out of it globally as it's a brand new area to perform at. I hope something huge will happen, not something bad of course, just something that will attract major media attention so we'll make the news big and people will really hear about us. In any case, *ADAM* and I will do our very best to impress everyone.

Aurélie: We got a lot of promotion going in the EU, actually things went very fast, almost like a rollercoaster, so hopefully we'll be able to do the same in South America. We're going to make the best of it in any case.

Find Shota, ADAMS and Aurélie online:

ADAMS official website: <http://adamshota.com>

ADAMS official facebook: www.facebook.com/adamandshota

ADAMS official twitter: twitter.com/adamshota

Shota's website: <http://shotayokoyama.com>

Shota's twitter: twitter.com/Shota2021

HIGHFeel: <http://highfeel.jp>

Râmen Events: www.ramen-events.com

Interview and photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.





Exploring Antwerp with Shota of ADAMS

Thrifting at 't Koetshuis, sightseeing throughout old town and drinks on 't Zuid.

Tuesday, July 15, Antwerp, Belgium
Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



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Interviews

Hibiki of Calmando Qual

ARAYA

Fashion & features

Helcanen in Japan

Cosplay

Lolita



SEXPLOSION
ADAMS

SEXPLOSION
ADAMS

SEXPLOSION
ADAMS



ADAMS is back in Europe for their longest tour yet, coupling the release of their newest album, **SEXPLOSION**. So high time to catch up with **ADAM** and **Shota** to talk about the new album, life on tour, fans and future plans.

You're back in Europe for your second full length tour, which is spanning 4 months and will be your biggest to date. What do you think will be the most challenging about touring this long?

Shota (vocals, keyboards, guitar): Every show is a challenge in itself to be honest.

ADAM (vocals): I think the biggest challenge will be to stay focussed for the duration of the entire tour, as it is such a long one.

What did you do to prepare for a tour of this magnitude?

Shota: It's true that this tour is the lengthiest we've undertaken so far, but last tour was also quite long. So seeing we already had that experience, we just did the same things as last time and didn't add any extra preparations.

Your first performance was on Valentine's Day in Wroclaw. **ADAMS** is all about love, so in what way was performing on that day special for you?

Shota: It was a great start *smiles*. It being Valentine's Day definitely added a little extra to the concert. Of course we performed as usual but the entire atmosphere attached to the date and the audience were both great. Polish fans are always very receptive of our music and performance and are always excited, so it was a fantastic opener of the tour.

When you are on tour, what is it that you miss the most about Japan?

Shota: Japanese food. Usually I don't even eat miso soup at home in Japan, but when I'm in Europe I sometimes really miss it. I'm still looking for a place where I can eat really good miso soup.

ADAM: My friends and family. But I have those here too so it's ok.

And the other way around, when you are in Japan, what do you miss the most about Europe?

ADAM: Croissants *smiles*.

Shota: Dried sausages *smiles*, especially as I can't get the ones I like in Japan.

On tour, fans will often bring gifts for artists. What are things that people can always make you happy with?

ADAM *laughs*: Haribo candy! Especially the little cola bottles and the gummy bears! *Jumps up to go get packages as examples*. I also like receiving flowers, roses in particular. And Shota loves dried sausages *laughs*.

Shota gets up too and returns with a package of dried sausages I love these!

On tour you spend a lot of time in a car. What do you do to make long car rides fun?

Shota: Adam is driving this time actually.

Aur lie (tour manager): Yeah I hired him to be the driver as well as the singer *laughs*.

Shota: I mostly use it as prep time before the shows: go over the plans for our performance and such, that's very important. And of course sometimes I just sleep.

Adam: I made sure to get a European driver's licence, and I have the GPS set up on my phone so we won't get lost *grins*. And driving on the other side of the road (editor: in Japan they drive on the left side is not an issue, it's a bit of a game to me *laughs*).

Shota: He's getting a lot of practise too! Yesterday he drove and today after rehearsal he drove us to Courtrai.

You visit a lot of cities on tour, and sometimes you have time to go sightseeing also. Of all those moments, what has been the best and most impressive thing you've seen?

ADAM: The sights along the river Seine in Paris.

Shota: All the beautiful sunsets I've seen whilst on tour.

Is there anything in particular you hope to see or visit on this tour?

ADAM: I'd love to be able to walk around in Athens, Greece. I especially want to see the Parthenon.

Shota: If I can find free time whilst we're in Italy I definitely want to see the sights. Last time there sadly wasn't time for that, so I hope

that this time will be different. I also want to eat real Italian food such as pasta, pizza and drink the local wine. And if at all possible I'd also like to visit an art museum.

How do you hope fans will respond to **SEXPLOSION**?

ADAM: The new album is a challenge for us. We want to show a new **ADAMS** to our fans and for them to really feel and discover the new version of the band.

Shota: The concept of this album is a little more challenging in itself, even though I think this is our most accessible album yet. In the sense that it is more electro pop than our previous works, so a little different.

You use a lot of electronics on **SEXPLOSION**, can you tell us a little of the equipment you use to create the electronic elements in your music?

Shota: I just used all the equipment I used on previous albums: guitars, loops and such on the computer and the keyboard. I did have a different mindset when writing these songs. Previously when our music wasn't so electro pop oriented our songs were longer, but to fit this particular style, I really had to make sure they were all around the 3 minutes mark and focus on that genre to be properly mixed into the **ADAMS** sound.

I read on tumblr that a teenage gay fan feels a lot better about her sexual orientation and that listening to **ADAMS** really helped her come to terms with herself and helped her coming out to her family. How does it make you feel when you hear things like that? That your music has such a positive impact on people's lives?

ADAM *smiles*: It makes me really happy to hear things like that. It's great when our music helps fans and contributes to make their lives better.

Shota: Me too. Of course, our music is for literally everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation. But if it helps to contribute that people look to the LGBT community in a more positive way, then that's great!

Which song of the new album is your personal favourite to perform live and why?

ADAM: I can speak for both of us when I say **HERO**. Because we wrote that especially for the fans, so we definitely want to perform that live for them.

Shota, together with Aur lie you have brought artists such as **SAGA** and **Araya** to Europe, who else can we expect to come to Europe under **HIGHFeel**. What are your plans with the organisation for this year?

Shota: I'm going to let Aur lie answer this one.

Aur lie: We recently signed Japanese band **X Made Alcoholic Santa-claus** and we want to do a European tour with them in autumn, early September preferably. At this point there are of course no concrete plans yet as we want to focus on the current **ADAMS** tour first as that is happening right now. But in any case that's the next band we would like to bring to Europe.

Other than the **SEXPLOSION Europe** tour, what are your other plans for 2015 with **ADAMS**?

Shota: After this tour we want to go to the US and other countries in North America. Nothing is set in stone at this point, but it's a target for me. We also want to go back to South America and do a tour of other Asian countries. We definitely want to go more global after this EU tour. 2015 is the year that's full of lives. Before this we released three full albums and a couple of singles. This year we want to bring our music to as many people as possible, all over the world.

Find **ADAMS** online:

Official site: <http://adamshota.com>

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/adamandshot

Official twitter: twitter.com/adamshot

Shota's twitter: twitter.com/Shota2021

ADAM's twitter: twitter.com/ADAM_2021

Official Youtube channel: www.youtube.com/user/highfeelJAPAN

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Interviews

X MADE ALCOHOLIC SANTACLAUS

Mikaru - G.L.A.M.S.

my way my love

Neb aaran do

INORAN

Fashion & features

Helcanen in Japan

Halloween

Christmas

**The ABC of
Belgian music with
Shota
Yokoyama**



A full-page photograph of a man with dark hair and sunglasses, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a black bow tie, and black trousers. He is leaning against a concrete pillar that is part of a wall covered in graffiti. The graffiti includes the words 'DIRTY' and 'SB' in black, and some red and blue tags. The man's right arm is raised, resting his hand on his head, while his left arm is behind his back. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows.

An ABC of
Belgian
music with
Shota
Yokoyama

For this particular interview with **Shota Yokoyama** of ADAMS we decided to do something else, and Shota was quite happy to go along with it. Instead of a regular Q&A style interview, we let Shota listen to as many different Belgian songs as possible, one for each letter of the alphabet we could find a song to represent at the time. Shota then gave his opinion, and sometimes we asked more questions. For those wondering how the songs sound, each and every one of them is on YouTube (or at least was at the time of the interview).

A: Arno "Les Yeux de ma Mère"

Auréli Vandecasteele (manager): Oh I love this song, I think it's amazing!

Shota: I love it as well!

How important is family to you both as a person and a musician?

Shota: Of course it is very important. As a musician my mother is very important to me. She has always supported me in my choice to become a musician. I knew that that is what I wanted from a pretty early time in my life, and she's always been there for me. So that's why she's the most important person to me as a musician, but of course the rest of my family is very important to me as well.

B: BRNS "Here Dead He Lies"

I like how they are trying something new and different. It's a new generation of rock music. I haven't seen the band's photo but they sound very stylish, like they thought about their image very well. *Auréli shows him the artwork* yes, I really do like their style, with all the modern art.

C: Channel Zero "Dark Passenger"

Laughs that's a very long intro! Maybe a bit too long even. I guess most metal bands are like that. I listened to some metal when I was in my teens, but admittedly only to Metallica. I like bands in that style more than traditional heavy metal. I guess I like a simpler style when it comes to aggressive and heavy sounds. Not the fast guitars that are getting so technical.

D: dEUS "Suds & Soda"

It sounds a little bit like *Oasis* to me: alternative but commercial at the same time.

E: Evil Superstars "B.A.B.Y."

Chuckles sometimes this song is reminiscent of *Marilyn Manson*, you know, from their early days. It also reminds me of oldies punk-rock, I like it a lot, I think it's really good. It's definitely a band I'd like to hear more of.

F: Front 242 "Headhunter" (remix)

I like it *smiles*.

What is your end game for ADAMS?

Well, if we would have a 10 year plan, so to speak, I hope that at the end of that ADAMS would be a band with global fame. And that we are still stylish and original too.

G: Gorki "Lieve Kleine Piranha"

I like it! It's a good pop-rock song. Obviously I can't understand the lyrics but I like the overall feel and melody.

Of all Dutch language alternative music, this is one of the best known songs. Even though singer Luc De Vos died some time ago, it is still known by people everywhere in Flanders. Which song by ADAMS do you hope to be remembered by even after your death?

Dizzy Love. It is our strongest production so far. And by production I mean the total package, not just the song itself and the music, but also the imagery and the video clip we did for it.

H: "Here I Belong" Girls in Hawaii

It sounds almost like a movie. It's definitely something I'd listen to in private. I like the simple guitars on this song as well as the spoken word. I like a lot of instrumental music and soundtracks and this fits nicely.

You travel a lot. Where do you feel you belong the most?

I do go to a lot of places. I also get to know a lot of places, which is good for the creative vibes. I've been on the road a lot in the past two years, so a lot has changed in my mind, in the way I think and feel about things. But nearly all good and for the good *smiles*.

I: "Ice Guitars" Zita Swoon

This is really interesting! It's also rather different! It's definitely an interesting sound, and I also like the effects they've added to it.

J: Janes Detd. "Take on Me" (A-ha cover)

Shota: *Bursts out into laughter* Cool! Ok this is really great! Their sound is like punk and pop mixed together, it's a great combo! The song is very catchy as well!

Auréli: I like this one too!

At lives you have performed a cover of Sweet Dreams before, are there any other songs you'd still like to cover?

Shota: If I ever do another cover it should also be a famous song, because everyone knows those and it really shows the difference in sound of the original and the ADAMS take on it. I think that next time, if there is a next time, we'll go for something more mainstream and pop. Maybe I'll even cover *Madonna* *chuckles*.

Auréli: Maybe you should cover *99 Luftballons* by *Nena* just for the German fans *plays it*.

Shota: Oh I actually know this song! Well yes, maybe I will *smiles*!

K: Kiss My Jazz "Good Night Irene"

For a band with Jazz in the name it doesn't sound very jazzy at all to me.

L: Vive la Fête "Liberté"

Cool! It is very stylish! I like it a lot. I wonder how many people like rock in French. It is very popular? Or more scene oriented?



More scene oriented, even though *Vive la Fête* is quite big. The song is called "freedom", what is freedom to you?

What it is to me changes with my mood. When I am feeling down and negative, I don't feel free at all. But when I am feeling positive, I feel like I have the freedom to reach all my goals and like I can do absolutely anything and everything. So being positive is the key really *smiles*. And even though the world is never really "free", at least you can have personal freedom by being positive *smiles*.

M: "Moules Frites" Stromae

Shota: This is good and all, but why is Stromae so famous?

Aurélie: Because of his total package: sound, look, all of it.

Shota: So because of his general style?

Aurélie: Because he's unique.

Shota: So because people think he is cool, and listening to his music makes them feel cool too?

Aurélie: Because his lyrics are good and his music is different. That makes him popular. It's because he dares to be different and uses the African way of turning a bad or sad thing into a party.

BCM: Exactly. Things are negative, but they party anyway, because it's better to be positive than negative.

(Editor's note: we chose this song because the title, which means mussels and fries in English, but in reality it's about the AIDS problematic).

Being half African and half Belgian, Stromae often uses African influences in his music, like in this song. Do you think that spending so much time in Belgium, you will start using influences typically Belgian in your music?

Oh yes of course! I'm getting to know more Belgian music all the time *chuckles*.

Mussels and fries is probably one of the dishes typical of Belgium that people all over the world know and love. Which is your favourite Belgian food?

I'm not sure this is typically Belgian but I like artichokes *smiles*. I love the mood in bars here more than the food. I also like how beer and wine are cheaper here than they are in Japan and in the USA. I like steak. In Japan I never eat sweets or chocolate, but I do eat chocolate here from time to time, because I do like Belgian chocolate.

N: "Nix" Die Anarchistische Abentunderhaltung (DAAU)

Oh yes, this is very interesting for sure. I like the combination of instruments. Which ones are they?

Cello, violin, clarinet and accordion.

Cool, cool. I hear a lot more instrumental music here than I do in Japan. Japanese music is nearly always pop. Especially in the charts. We do have a lot of interesting instrumental music, but it's not mainstream. Mostly because young people aren't interested in it, which is a shame. I like how the EU does like it's instrumental music.

Belgium has a huge classical music tradition, with the world acclaimed Queen Elisabeth contest, which also makes for alternative chamber music like DAAU and Univers Zero. Is working with classical music something you'd ever want to do?

I would definitely like to do something with classical music with ADAMS yes. But I need to learn more about it first.

O: "On nous cache tout" été 67

Shota: It's cool ! Can I watch the PV? I like how they obviously have a message, even though I don't understand it.

Aurélie: it's political.

BCM: it's about how a lot of information is kept from the general public.

Shota: It's an interesting theme for sure and I do agree with it.

Do you feel like there is a lot hidden from people?

Oh yes, absolutely. Everywhere.

As an artist, do you feel like you have to hide a lot of things from others?

No, not really. Of course my personal life is personal, but so is everybody's. But it's not like I'm hiding scandals or something bad *chuckles*. I know a lot of artists do, because their image requires them to have scandals like cheating and such, but that is not my style. Because it's not part of my image I don't need scandals *laughs*.

P: "Puppy" Magnus featuring Tim Vanhamel

I like this a lot, both the sound and the PV. I think it's very enjoyable.



R: Gabriel Rios "Dauphine"

Another one that I like and enjoy a lot. Both the sound and the PV.

S: Soulwax "Conversation Intercom"

This is a song about miscommunication, do you often feel like it is hard to communicate what you as an artist want to represent? I don't think so. To me it's most important that my team understands what I want to communicate. When ADAM, Aurélie and Ryota get it, we can really make things work the way I want. I'm not as fussed about what others think because music is open to interpretation. Which is as it should be really, else it would be really boring. And of course different people will see things differently, depending on how long they have been fans, which keeps things fresh and exciting for everyone.

T: TC Matic "Ooh la la la"

Chuckles at the PV It definitely is different but it's good and I like the tune.

U: Univers Zero "Jack the Ripper"

Shota: Ok this is impressive! And very unique.

Aurélié: It's a bit scary I think, but that's unsurprising considering its called Jack the Ripper.

In Belgium, we don't really have a lot of mythology that is still important to society like in Japan, we have our human monsters from history, rather than monsters from folklore. Of all the creatures of Japan, which is the one you find most interesting?

Oh yes! We have so much folklore! All kinds of supernatural creatures. There are so many stories and books that it's nearly impossible to choose one for me, because I am not as into it as many Japanese are. To be honest, sometimes I think that our folklore and mythology is more interesting to people from outside of Japan, because it is so different from what they are used to. I really can't choose one, but if I have to I guess ghosts, because I like ghost stories, even though they scare me. I'll tell a story from when I was younger. When I went to junior high in Yokohama, we had a very old well opposite the entrance of my school. It was actually a historical site, as they used to execute people there. And of course, supposedly, it was haunted. I never saw a ghost though, luckily. But others did. To be honest I think that a lot of the Japanese's believes may have to do with the fact that so many are Buddhist and believe in reincarnation and such.

W: Tom Waes "Dos cervezas"

I think this is great! I don't care that it's a bit of a joke song, I love it *laughs*!

This is a parody on the *schlager* genre, if you were to parody a genre, which one would it be?

I think maybe I'll pass on making parodies of other songs and genres *chuckles*, it's not really my style. I still like this kind of song though just for the entertainment value *smiles*.

Would you be amused if someone would parody ADAMS?

Oh yes, absolutely! I would laugh if someone parodied ADAMS! Why not? It'll be funny!

Z: Zornik "Scared of Yourself"

It's a beautiful song. Very cool, I like it. I like how there are so many different layers to the song, and to the PV. Very well done.

Are there things that you undertake, or aspects of yourself, that scare you?

Shota: No, not a single thing! I'm not even scared when it comes to music *smiles*. The only thing that scares me are ghosts *laughs*.

Aurélié: And the pirate ship at the fun fair. You know, the half moon ships that swing and sometimes loop all the way around.

Shota: Well, we don't have rides that wild in Japan, at least not at places I've visited.

You are starting your new solo project soon, I can imagine that it's always a little scary to start something new, what are your expectations for it, and can you tell us a little more about it?

It will be cool! I'm not scared for it though, but I am excited! But first there will be more from ADAMS *smiles*!

(Editor: ADAMS is releasing their best off album Original Love in November, and will be going on a world tour in Europe, Asia and USA to support the release. It will contain new works as well as remixes produced by Japanese DJ's and composers.)

Find Shota online:

Official website: www.shotayokoyama.com

ADAMS website: www.adamshota.com

HIGHFeel website: www.highfeel.jp

Official facebook: www.facebook.com/shotayokoyamamusic

ADAMS official facebook: www.facebook.com/adamandshota

Official twitter: twitter.com/shota2021

ADAMS official twitter: twitter.com/adamshota

Interview by Hilde Heyvaert. Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



Behind the scenes of BCM's cover shoot with
Shota Yokoyama of ADAMS.
aka: **URBEXING WITH SHOTA**

Photography by Hilde Heyvaert and Bert Van den Wyngaert.



RareZut is a US based company specialising in rare Japanese music, primarily visual kei and J-rock, but as they are interested in expanding their musical offerings, so if Santa left you some cash and with the unfulfilled desire for a particular recording, these guys may be the answer.

By means of introduction for people who don't know RareZut, could you quickly introduce your store?

Val: RareZut is the first internationally-based used visual kei and J-rock store of its size. We specialize in older releases, and more recent ones as well, that can often be near-impossible for anyone outside of Japan to get their hands on. We sell CDs, DVDs, VHS, and cassette tapes on our store, and there's even small audio/video previews for every item listed.

Matt: One of the big draws of RareZut, I believe, is the fact that we offer high-quality digital copies for any analog, cassette and VHS, media that's purchased. So often before, I'd hear people talk about wanting to buy some old tape, but choosing not to because they had no way to enjoy it. We strive to not only give them something acceptable, but the BEST version possible using thousands of dollars' worth of studio-grade equipment in the digitization process.

What motivated you to start RareZut?

Matt: I've been an avid fan of visual-kei since 2003, but I, along with most other foreign fans, quickly realized what a difficult and expensive task buying the music was. For the past 6 years or so, I had ideas floating around in my mind about a way to both make visual-kei music easier and cheaper for fans to get a hold of as well as give back to the community that I owe so much to. RareZut is the realization of that dream.

Val: RareZut was started by Matt and I out of a desire to make owning visual kei releases more accessible to fans. Shipping costs from Japan are kind of crazy, where someone often ends up paying just as much for shipping as the cost of the CDs themselves. By making the music and goods more accessible, we hope that more people will give these great and talented bands a chance and the community will grow and prosper as a whole. We also saw a lot of great limited releases, whether they were given out at a single concert or a store event, ending up lost to the ages or sitting on a dusty shelf in some store in Japan. This is where RareZut shows itself as a labor of love I think, and we wanted to buy as many CDs and VHS and demotapes as we can and get them in the hands of fans around the world who enjoy them. The business side of RareZut evolved as a means to keep doing that.

You're currently specialised in Vkei and J-rock, will you expand to other genres in the (near) future too?

Matt: We've been talking with others and expanding beyond our current scope is definitely something we are looking to do in the near future. Personally, I'm not too knowledgeable about things outside of the visual-kei/J-rock scenes. We've been wanting to expand into J-pop as well, although knowing what is popular and what to stock is quite the challenge. We're currently working with people who are better versed in that scene, so hopefully we'll be able to expand soon enough!

Val: I know there's a J-indie scene comprised of bands that aren't really rock and don't classify themselves as visual kei either. I have a number of friends that like those bands, and I'd like to start carrying them too. I agree with Matt though, knowing what to stock is the hardest part.

You often offer up rare items, what's the absolute rarest item you have had in your store so far?

Val: Oh wow, that's a tough one! I know we sold a *La:Sadie's* demotape with a live-recorded concert from 1996 on it. As far as we could tell, it was one-of-a-kind.

Matt: It's rather hard to say, since many things limited to only 10-20 copies have passed through our store since it started. We did have a rather interesting story come from an obscure live-distributed CD that was on the store. It was a single from a tiny *Osaka*-based band called *Lapis-en-Neant* that was given out at the band's last live and only a handful of copies existed. When the CD eventually sold, I noticed that the shipping address was in Japan. Turns out, it was bought by the former vocalist of the band, as it was so rare that even he no longer had a copy!

You guys are not just a specialist shop, you're also a specialised shop, remastering VHS and cassette so people can listen to them digitally on more contemporary present media, where did you guys learn how to do all of this?

Matt: Surprisingly enough, most of that was all self-taught. One of my huge goals that existed well before RareZut was created was to become sort of an archivist for visual-kei. So many times throughout my years in the scene, I've seen or heard of releases that would maybe show up once on an auction or be given out at some small concert and then never be seen again. This really made me realize how much of visual-kei history was completely lost forever, most likely never to be heard again. As soon as I was able to, I started buying just about every rare/obscure visual-kei release I could find and, after TONS of research and reading, the equipment needed to make as perfect of a digital copy as I could.

You're based out of New Mexico in the USA, do you feel like this is an advantage?

Val: It certainly has benefits to our customers in the USA! At least as many of our customers are from Europe though too, but I think shipping is still slightly cheaper from the USA than from Japan. We also work with them to use the cheapest shipping method, which is a huge benefit and not something stores and shopping services in Japan always offer.

Matt: Luckily we're an online-only business at the moment, so location matters a whole lot less. The ability to work from anywhere is certainly important since the Japanese music scene in New Mexico is non-existent at best.

Do you often visit Japan yourself on RareZut business?

Val: Matt's gone once for several weeks, he brought back one or two huge suitcases filled with nothing but CDs and tapes. I've been wanting to go for years, so hopefully soon!

You're starting up your live stream auctions program soon, could you tell us a little more about that?

Matt: That actually started as one of Val's ideas originally. We were just about to receive a rather large shipment from Japan with over 300 CDs and Val proposed the idea of doing a live streaming unboxing for people to watch. From there, we tossed around a few ideas and ended up with letting people bid on items as we took them out of the box while I talk a bit about the band/release. So far we've had eight live streaming events which were partially tests as we worked on figuring out the best way to run these events. We've gotten a ton of positive feedback since starting these and are hoping to iron out the last few kinks and work out a steadier streaming schedule for the upcoming year.

Val: We started our livestream auctions back in March using a public streaming site, but we've switched over to one that we've built and that's integrated with the store. One of the new features we were able to implement is a button that users can just click to place their bid. We had to do it all manually in chat before.

Aside from live stream auctions, have you ever considered doing a program where you could live stream concerts, kind of like what often happens in movie theatres?

Val: One of our goals for the future is to start working with bands to offer live-streaming concerts that are easily viewable by foreign fans.

Find RareZut online:

Website: <http://rarezhut.net>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rarezhut

Twitter: twitter.com/RareZut

Tumblr: www.tumblr.com/blog/rarezhut

Val and Matt have been so kind to offer a special discount coupon for BCM readers, use **BCM05** to get 5% off your order!

RAREZHUT 

Fashionable in handmade styles





Hairpieces, Starfalls 2097. Outfits, Plastic and bows.



Hairpieces, Starfalls 2097. Outfits, Plastic and bows.



Hairpieces, Starfalls 2097. Outfits, Plastic and bows.



Hairpieces, Starfalls 2097. Outfits, Plastic and bows.



Film hairclip, handmade by Hilde (patch used by Asilda Store). Frames, Theo. Camera and holster, Agfa Click 1. Scarf, knitted by Hilde. Aviator coat, H&M. Cardigan, Primark. Bag, Zatchels. Skirt, handmade by Hilde. Petticoat, Dear Celine. Umbrella, Angelic Pretty. Leggings, handmade by Hilde. Spats, handmade by Hilde. Boots, Kickers.



Hair accessories, Noor's Closet. Goggles, convention seller. Peignoir, thrifted. Blouse, thrifted and altered by Lora. Skirt, handmade by Lora. Tights, offbrand. Nerf gun, Rebelle series, modded by Lora with help from a friend. Shoes, model's own.



Hairband, handmade by Lora. Blouse, thrifted and altered by Lora. Gloves, vintage. Rings, offbrand. JSK, handmade by Lora. Tights, offbrand. Boots, model's own.

Sat. 02 April 2016

Etterbeek, Brussels

COALESCAREMONIUM

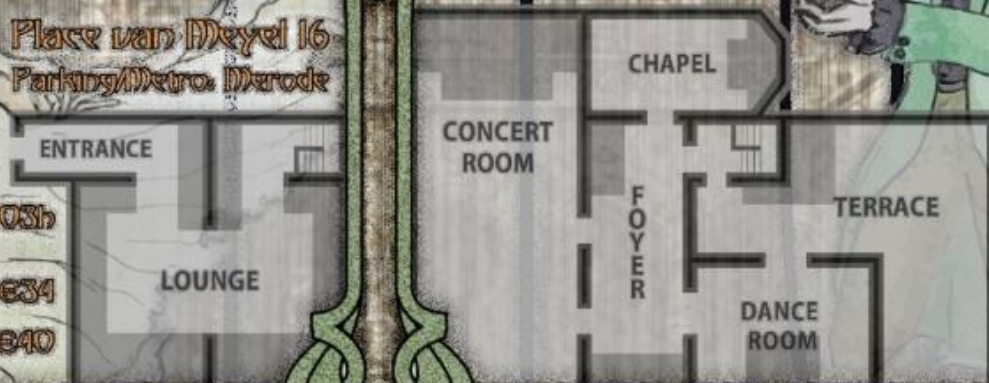
ART NOUVEAU NOISE

Place van Meyeel 16
Parking/Metro: Marode

Start: 15h, End: 03h

Private: €34

At Door: €40



the 4th grandioso Gothic happening inside a revamped monastery

A grand event that combines gothic, classical, electro, metal, industrial, minimal, noise and darkwave music with fashion, art & dance performances.

STARRING

HH
HEDERA HELIX

Pretentious,
Moi?

SIRENIA

iszoloscope



:NnK:
Dead Body Muzie

**MAX
LILJA**



www.coalescaremonium.info

EVENT CALENDAR

All dates and information may be subject to change, none of this is within our control.

For more events in the United Kingdom, also make sure to keep an eye on the Japan Underground event calendar:
<https://japanunderground.wordpress.com/upcoming-events>

February

HOTEI live

9: La Boule Noire, Paris, France
11: Cassiopeia Club, Berlin, Germany

MERRY

2016 European tour -
Purge the World
27: Elyon, Milan, Italy
28: La Boule Noire, Paris, France

March

MERRY

2016 European tour -
Purge the World
1: The Underworld, London, UK
2: MTC, Cologne, Germany
4: Firlej, Wroclaw, Poland
5: Headcrash, Hamburg, Germany
6: Feierwerk, Munich, Germany



Gala Nocturna,
The Age of Redemption
Date: 5

Venue: Augustijnenklooster
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.gala-nocturna.com

Made in Asia (MiA8) + YouPlay!
Date: 11 - 13
Venue: Brussels Expo, Paleis 5
City: Laeken
Country: Belgium
www.madeinasia.be

X Japan
World tour
Date: 12
Venue: Wembley Arena
City: London
Country: UK



Brussels Comic Con
Date: 19 & 20
Venue: Tour & Taxis
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium
www.comicconbrussels.com

Osharecon
Date: 19
Venue: 't Veerhuis
City: Nieuwegein
Country: The Netherlands
www.osharecon.nl

Brussels Comic Con
Date: 19 & 20
Venue: Tour & Taxis
City: Brussels
Country: Belgium
<http://www.comicconbrussels.com>

Satsuki
Epocalypse European tour
19: Osharecon, Utrecht,
The Netherlands
20: Brussels Comic Con, Brussels,
Belgium
25: TBA, Dublin, Ireland
29: MTC, Cologne, Germany
31: Hangar49, Berlin, Germany
<http://too-wild.com>

Spyair live in Paris
Date: 26
Venue: Le Machine due Molin Rouge
City: Paris
Country: France

April

COALESCAREMONIUM
Art Nouveau Noise
Date: 2
Venue: Bouche à Oreille
City: Etterbeek
Country: Belgium
www.coalescaremonium.info

Satsuki
Epocalypse European tour
1: Voodoo Club, Warsaw, Poland
2: Châpeau Rouge, Prague,
Czech Republic
3: Replugged, Vienna, Austria
9: Muzikos Rusys, Vilnius, Lithuania
15 - 17: TBA, TBA, Ukraine
22 - 24: TBA, TBA, Russia
<http://too-wild.com>

FACTS

Date: 2 & 3
Venue: Flanders Expo
City: Ghent
Country: Belgium
www.facts.be

Otak'est

Date: 14 & 15
Venue: Complexe des Capucins
City: Pontarlier
Country: France

May

Satsuki
Epocalypse European tour
7: Tuben, Stockholm, Sweden
14: Otak'est, Pontarlier, France
15: Otak'est, Pontarlier, France
16: La Marquise, Lyon, France
<http://too-wild.com>

Otak'est

Date: 14 & 15
Venue: Complexe des Capucins
City: Pontarlier
Country: France

July

Antwerp Convention
Date: 2 & 3
Venue: Antwerp Expo
City: Antwerp
Country: Belgium
www.antwerpconvention.be

Japan Expo
Date: 7 - 10
Venue: Parc des Expositions
Paris-Nord-Villepinte
City: Villepinte
Country: France
www.japan-expo-paris.com/en

CHECK THAT CHEKI DISNEYLAND PARIS EDITION

want to be on the next edition's check that cheki page? Just submit one!



BCM SNAP

Want to be in the next edition's Snap page?
Send a photo of yourself wearing J-fashion, any kind will do, or steampunk (due to the current popularity of the style in Japan)
to hilde.heyvaert@gmail.com
and you may very well see yourself featured in the next edition!



MÉTAMORPHOSE, TEMPS DE FILLE

TEA PARTY SNAP

Saturday, October 17; Schick Hotel Stefanie, Vienna, Austria.

Photography by and provided by Clara Lina Wirz.



